

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-34 and 36-43 are currently pending. Claims 18, 24, and 30 have been amended; and Claims 42 and 43 have been added by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 18-34 and 36-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement regarding the claim serial number and the claimed storage device configured to store data from a host machine and data from a scanner; the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) regarding the serial number and storage device limitations; Claims 6-9 and 18-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,918,988 to H.A.M. Van Oijen (hereinafter “the ‘988 patent”); and Claims 10-17 and 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application Publication No. 0469865 to Dahlby et al. (hereinafter “the ‘865 patent”).¹

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted Applicant’s representative on April 18, 2007, at which time the outstanding rejections of the claims were discussed. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 112.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims under § 112, first paragraph. As stated in the previous response, the step of displaying a serial number of each of a selected plurality of data files is generally supported by Figures 7-9 and the discussion related thereto in the specification. In particular, page 9 of the specification states that:

¹ Applicants note that, while the Office Action refers to Claims 6-17, those claims were previously canceled and are no longer pending.

The output order of the data is determined by the order in which the operator selects the data on the screen 80. Specifically, FIG. 7 shows a condition wherein the operator has selected the data "SCAN-01" first; the data "SCAN-1" is highlighted with a serial number "1" appearing at the right-hand side of the data. FIG. 8 shows a specific condition wherein the operator has selected the data "P-17187" and "P-17190" in this order after the data "SCAN-01"; serial numbers "2" and "3" are shown at the right-hand side of such data. As a result, the data "SCAN 01", "P-17187" and "P-17190" will be sequentially output in this order.²

Further, Applicants note that the described serial numbers are shown in Figures 7-9.

See also the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 21, which refer to the displayed serial numbers.

Further, regarding the limitations recited in new Claims 36-41, as stated in the previous response, those limitations are supported in general by Figures 7-9 and the discussion related thereto in the specification. Regarding Figure 7, the specification states that:

As shown, three different data "P-17187", "17190" and "SCAN-01" are assumed to be stored on the hard disk. The data "P-17187" and "P-17190" are document data output from the host machine while data "SCAN-01" is image data read by the copier/printer. These data are displayed on the screen 80 in the order in which they were written to the hard disk.³

Thus, this passage in the specification clearly indicates that the data stored in the hard disk can be data output from a host machine or image data read by a scanner of the copier/printer. Moreover, as shown in Figures 7-9, the names associated with the data files indicate whether the data file stored in the hard drive are from the host machine or from the scanner. In particular, in a nonlimiting example, the data from the scanner is illustrated with a name such as "SCAN-01", while the data from a host machine is indicated by the letter "P" and a name of the host machine, as shown in Figures 7-9.

² See page 9, lines 4-13 of the specification. Emphasis added.

³ Page 8, lines 10-15. Emphasis added.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that previously added Claims 36-41 fully satisfy the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Thus, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). As discussed above, Figures 7-9 illustrate the objected-to limitations recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended Claim 18 is directed to a method of printing data files using an image printing device, comprising: (1) storing data files in a storage device associated with the image printing device; (2) selecting, in an arbitrary order, a plurality of the data files stored in the storage device; (3) displaying a serial number indicating a printing order of the selected plurality of data files; and (4) printing the selected plurality of data files, wherein the plurality of data files are printed in the selected order.

The '988 patent is directed to a printing system for carrying out print jobs in which print jobs are received and stored in memory, wherein the printing system has an interface so that print criteria can be set and altered by an operator. The '988 patent discloses that only the print jobs satisfying the print criteria set by the operator are printed.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '988 patent fails to disclose the step of displaying a serial number indicating a printing order of the selected plurality of data files, as recited in Claim 18. As shown in Figure 7A, the '988 patent discloses that the names of files in a job are displayed. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '988 patent fails to disclose displaying the serial number indicating a printing order of the selected plurality of data files, and then printing the selected plurality of files in the selected order, as recited in Claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 18 (and dependent Claims 19-23, 36, and 37) as anticipated by the '988 patent.

Independent Claim 24 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 18. Moreover, Claim 24 has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 18. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 18, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 24 (and all associated dependent claims) as anticipated by the '988 patent.

Independent Claim 30 is a computer program product claim reciting limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 18.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 30, the '865 patent is directed to a method of automatically sorting jobs in a print queue according to the characteristics of a job to be printed and a selected printing priority. In particular, the '865 patent discloses steps of selecting an order in which jobs in the queue are to be printed, comparing a print medium program for each job of the print medium in the paper tray, and changing the order in which the jobs are arranged in the queue in accordance with the presence of the print medium in the paper trays.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '865 patent fails to disclose the step of displaying a serial number indicating a printing order of the selected plurality of data files, as recited in Claim 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the rejections of Claim 30 (and all associated dependent claims) as anticipated by the '865 patent.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claims 42 and 43 for examination on the merits. New Claims 42 and 43, which depend from Claims 24 and 30, respectively, recite the limitation recited in Claim 22. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 18, 24, and 30 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '988 and '865 patents.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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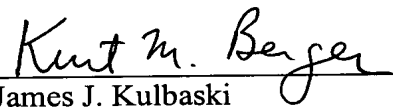
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